

She language

The **She language** (Mandarin: 畬語, *shēyǔ*, Hakka 山客話, *san ha ue*, [sáj xáʔ uě̌]), autonym **Ho Ne**, /hɔ˧ ne˧/ or **Ho Nte**, is an endangered Hmong–Mien language spoken by the She people. Most of the over 709,000 She people today speak Hakka Chinese. Those who still speak She—approximately 1,200 individuals in Guangdong Province—call themselves *Ho Ne*, "mountain people" (活𪚑; *huóniè*). She is nearly extinct today.

Contents
Dialects
External relationships
Phonology
Consonants
Vowels
Tones
Vocabulary
Loanwords from Classical Chinese
References

Dialects

There are two main dialects of She, both of which are highly endangered.^[3] They are spoken in two small pockets to the west and east of Huizhou City, Guangdong.

- Luofu 罗浮 (Western She dialect), spoken in Luofu Mountain District 罗浮山区, Boluo County and in Zengcheng District.^[4] 580 speakers according to *Ethnologue*.
- Lianhua 莲花 (Eastern She dialect), spoken in Lianhua Mountain District 莲花山区, Haifeng County.^[4] 390 speakers according to *Ethnologue*.

External relationships

She has been difficult to classify due to the heavy influence of Chinese on the language. Matisoff (2001), for example, left it unclassified within the Hmongic languages, and some have considered that much to be doubtful, leaving it unclassified within (and potentially a third branch of) the Hmong–Mien languages. She has monosyllabic roots, but has mainly compound words.^[3] However, due to the similar components of She, Mao & Li (2002) and Ratliff (2010) consider She to be most closely related to Jiongnai.^{[5][6]}

She	
Ho Ne	
Pronunciation	[hò̌ně̌]
Native to	China
Region	Zengcheng, Boluo County, Huidong County and Haifeng County in Guangdong
Ethnicity	710,000 She (2000 census) ^[1]
Native speakers	910 (1999) ^[1]
Language family	Hmong–Mien - Hmongic - She–Jiongnai She
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	shx
Glottolog	shee1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/shee1238) ^[2]

Shēhuà (畬话) is not to be confused with Shēyǔ (畬语), also known as Ho Ne, which is a Hmong-Mien language spoken in east-central Guangdong. Shēhuà (Chinese: 畬话, meaning 'She dialect' or 'She speech') is an unclassified Sinitic language spoken by the She people of Fujian and Zhejiang provinces in southeastern China. Shehua and Sheyu speakers have separate histories and identities, although both are officially classified by the Chinese government as She people. The Dongjia of Majiang County, Guizhou are also officially classified as She people, but speak a Western Hmongic language closely related to Chong'anjiang Miao (重安江苗语).

Phonology

Consonants

		Bilabial		Labio-dental	Alveolar		Velar			Glottal	
		plain	pal.		plain	pal.	plain	pal.	lab.	plain	pal.
Nasal	voiced	m	m ^j		n	n ^j	ŋ	ŋ ^j			
	voiceless						ŋ̥				
Plosive	voiceless unaspirated	p	p ^j		t	t ^j	k	k ^j	k ^w	(?)	
	voiceless aspirated	p ^h	p ^{h j}		t ^h	t ^{h j}	k ^h	k ^{h j}	k ^{h w}		
Affricate	voiceless unaspirated				ts	ts ^j					
	voiceless aspirated				ts ^h	ts ^{h j}					
Fricative	voiceless			f	s	s ^j				h	h ^j
	voiced			v	z	z ^j					

Glottal stop is not distinct from zero (a vowel-initial syllable).

There are consonant mutation effects. For instance, *pǐ + kiáu* becomes *pí'íáu*, and *kóu + tǎi* becomes *kóulǎi*.

Vowels

Vowels are /i e a ɔ ʏ u/. Finals are /j w n ŋ t k/, with /t k/ only in Hakka loans, though /ʏ/ is never followed by a final, and the only stops which follow the front vowels are /n t/.

Tones

There are six tones, reduced to two (high and low) in checked syllables (Hakka loans only). There is quite a lot of dialectical variability; two of the reported inventories (not necessarily in corresponding order) are:

[1 1 1 4 1 1]: that is, /5 4 3 2 1 35/, or (on /a/), /ǎ á ā à ǎ ǎ/

[1 1 1 4 1 1]: that is, /53 42 3 2 31 35/

Vocabulary

Loanwords from Classical Chinese

Like Southern Chinese dialects, the She language has loanwords from Classical Chinese.

- 走 to run
- 行 to walk
- 烏 black
- 赤 red
- 寮 house
- 禾 rice (plant)
- 鑊 wok
- 奉 to give
- 其 he/she/it
- 着 to wear
- 睇 to look
- 戮 to kill
- 齧 to bite
- 使 to use

References

1. She (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/shx/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
 2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "She" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/shee1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
 3. "She" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/shx>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2017-02-10.
 4. Mao Zongwu 毛宗武. 1986. *Sheyu jianzhi* 畬语简志. Ethnic Publishing House 民族出版社.
 5. 毛宗武, 李云兵 / Mao Zongwu, Li Yunbing. 2002. 炯奈语研究 / Jiongnaï yu yan jiu (A Study of Jiongnaï). Beijing: 中央民族大学出版社 / Zhong yang min zu da xue chu ban she.
 6. Ratliff, Martha. 2010. *Hmong–Mien language history*. Canberra, Australia: Pacific Linguistics.
- Bruhn, Daniel (2008). "Minority Language Policy in China, with Observations on the *She* Ethnic Group" (http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~dwbruhn/dwbruhn_250E-paper.pdf) (PDF). Retrieved 30 July 2018.
 - Mao, Zongwu & Meng, Chaoji. 1986. *She yu jian zhi* (A Sketch of the She language). Beijing, China: Nationalities Press. (毛宗武, 蒙朝吉. 1986. 畬語簡志. 北京: 民族出版社)
 - Ratliff, Martha (1998). "Ho Ne (She) is Hmongic: One final argument" (<http://sealang.net/sala/archives/pdf8/ratliff1998ho.pdf>) (PDF). *Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area*. **21** (2): 97–109.
 - You, Wenliang. 2002. *She zu yu yan* [The languages of the She people]. Fuzhou, China: Fujian People's Publishing House. (游文良. 2002. 畬族语言. 福州: 福建人民出版社)
-

This page was last edited on 20 April 2020, at 20:01 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.